XCALAK | QUINTANA ROO | MEXICO

THE XFLATS

Xcalak Fly Fishing Lodge

Your all-inclusive gateway to world-class saltwater fly fishing on Mexico's pristine Caribbean flats — chasing permit, bonefish and tarpon at the very end of the road.

OFFICIAL BROCHURE • EDITION 2026

Permit | Bonefish | Tarpon | Snook | Barracuda

Website: thexflats.com
Phone: +1-863-632-2672
Location: Xcalak, Quintana Roo, Mexico

01 Welcome to The XFlats

Tucked away on a quiet stretch of the Yucatán coast where the Mesoamerican Reef meets the open Caribbean, The XFlats is a boutique saltwater fly fishing lodge built by anglers, for anglers. We are an all-inclusive gateway to some of the most untouched flats remaining in the western hemisphere — a place where permit tail in glassy water, bonefish streak across white sand, and tarpon roll lazily in the lagoons just minutes from our dock.

Located in the small fishing village of Xcalak, our lodge sits at the very end of the road in the southern Yucatán — a remote, protected stretch of Mexico's Caribbean coastline. The water here is clear, the flats are vast, and fishing pressure is among the lowest you will find anywhere in the Caribbean basin.

Our Philosophy

The XFlats was founded out of genuine passion for saltwater fly fishing and a deep appreciation for Xcalak's pristine waters. From our earliest days we have worked toward a single goal: to create a lodge where guests feel welcomed, valued, and connected — not only to remarkable fishing, but also to a community of anglers who truly understand why this place is special.

At a Glance

Lodge Name	The XFlats — Xcalak Fly Fishing Lodge
Location	Xcalak, Quintana Roo, Mexico
Primary Species	Permit, Bonefish, Tarpon, Snook, Barracuda
Lodge Style	Boutique, all-inclusive, family-run
Endorsements	Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Lodge
Best For	Saltwater fly anglers of all skill levels
Website	thexflats.com
Reservations	+1-863-632-2672

02 Why Choose The XFlats

There are fly fishing lodges across the Caribbean, and several are very good. What sets The XFlats apart is a combination of geography, people, and ethos. Below are the reasons our guests return year after year, and why discerning anglers continue to choose Xcalak over more crowded destinations.

- **Untouched flats.** Xcalak sits at the southern tip of the Yucatán, far from cruise-ship routes and resort sprawl. Pressure on our flats is a fraction of what you find in better-known destinations.
- **World-class permit.** Our flats hold one of the densest, healthiest permit populations in the world — large schools, eager fish, and shots in clear water almost every day of the season.
- **Local, expert guides.** Our guides are born-and-raised Xcalak fishermen who have grown up reading these flats. They have the eagle eye, bilingual communication, and patience for anglers of every skill level.
- **Truly all-inclusive.** Lodging, all meals, daily guided fishing, boat fuel, soft drinks, beer, transfers, and lodge amenities are bundled. You bring rods and a sense of adventure — we handle the rest.
- **Boutique, not industrial.** We are a small, family-feel lodge — never overbooked, never rushed. Our limited capacity is intentional and protects the quality of your experience on the water and at the table.
- **Multi-species variety.** Beyond permit, bonefish and tarpon, expect daily shots at barracuda, snook, jacks, and the occasional triggerfish. A true Caribbean Grand Slam fishery.
- **Comfort at the edge.** Air-conditioned suites, reliable Wi-Fi, full-service bar, and meals prepared daily by local chefs. Remote does not mean rough.
- **Orvis Endorsed.** We are an Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Lodge — a designation reserved for operations that meet rigorous standards for guiding, hospitality, and conservation.

03 Saltwater Fly Fishing in Xcalak

The flats of Xcalak are legendary among saltwater fly anglers for good reason. Permit tail in crystal-clear water inches deep. Bonefish streak through shallow lagoons in singles, doubles, and large schools. Tarpon cruise quietly beneath mangrove edges and along reef cuts. Each cast here is unforgettable — and every day on the water carries the real possibility of a Grand Slam.

The Fishery

Xcalak fronts the southern terminus of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef — the second-largest reef system on the planet. The waters off our dock include vast white-sand flats, turtle-grass meadows, mangrove channels, sheltered lagoons, and blue-water reef edges. This diversity within a short boat ride is what makes the fishing so productive and so varied. Wind directions that ruin a day in other destinations simply send our guides to a different protected flat.

A Typical Day on the Water

Mornings begin with strong coffee and a hot breakfast at the lodge. Boats depart shortly after sunrise. Your guide selects the day's water based on tide, wind, and what species you most want to chase. A packed lunch and cold drinks come along — most anglers eat on the boat, so you stay in the fish all day. Lines come out in the late afternoon, leaving plenty of time for a shower, a cold beer at the bar, and dinner with the rest of the lodge.

By the Numbers

Average shots at permit per day	10 to 30+ in season
Bonefish shots per day	Often dozens, sometimes hundreds
Tarpon	Year-round juveniles + seasonal migratory adults
Boat ride to first flat	5 to 25 minutes from the dock
Maximum anglers per skiff	Two — never crowded
Catch & release policy	Strict — all flats species released

04 Target Species

Xcalak is one of very few places in the world where the saltwater fly fisherman's three great prizes — permit, bonefish and tarpon — share the same square mile of water. The Grand Slam is not just a possibility here; it is a realistic goal during a multi-day trip.

Permit (Trachinotus falcatus)

The crown jewel of the Caribbean flats. Permit are notoriously difficult — spooky, picky eaters that test every part of an angler's game. What makes Xcalak exceptional is sheer numbers. Schools of 20, 50, even 100+ fish are common in the right tides, and shots are often at fish in less than two feet of water. Average permit run 8 to 15 pounds; trophy fish over 25 pounds are landed every season.

Bonefish (Albula vulpes)

The classic flats target — fast, hard-pulling, and one of the great introductions to saltwater fly fishing. Bonefish in Xcalak run from one to six pounds on average, with larger fish in deeper edges and channels. They travel in everything from singles to schools of one hundred or more, and they reset quickly after a missed shot.

Tarpon (Megalops atlanticus)

The silver king. We hold a healthy resident population of juvenile tarpon in the back-country lagoons and mangroves — fish in the 5- to 30-pound class that are willing eaters and spectacular jumpers. From late spring into summer, larger migratory adults push through, and shots at fish over 100 pounds are part of the program.

Bonus Species

Beyond the big three, expect daily encounters with barracuda, snook, jack crevalle, triggerfish, and a long list of reef species when winds push you offshore. Many anglers leave with their personal best on three or four different species in a single week.

05 The Lodge & Accommodations

Set on a quiet stretch of the Yucatán coast, The XFlats combines the seclusion of a remote fishing village with the comfort of a well-appointed lodge. Our home base is Tierra Maya Lodge — a small, intimate property right on the water, designed specifically for anglers who want to be remote without giving up comfort.

Rooms & Suites

Each suite at Tierra Maya is private, en-suite, and finished with care. Air-conditioning works hard against the Caribbean heat, the beds are built for tired anglers, and reliable Wi-Fi means you can send a photo of the day's fish home. Rooms open onto views of the reef and ocean, and a few short steps separate your door from the dock.

Food & Drink

Meals are prepared daily by our local chefs, blending coastal Mexican flavors with familiar favorites. Fresh seafood is the rule rather than the exception. Breakfast is hot and substantial, lunches are packed for the boat, and dinners are served family-style in a communal setting that brings guests together at the end of every day. Special dietary needs are accommodated with notice.

Lodge Amenities

- Private en-suite air-conditioned rooms
- On-site fly tying station and gear-storage area
- Full bar and lounge with cold beer, cocktails and Mexican classics
- Communal dining room with daily menus
- Reliable Wi-Fi throughout the property
- Laundry service available on request
- Rod rinsing, reel servicing, and gear drying station
- Beachfront access and quiet outdoor lounging areas

06 Guides & All-Inclusive Packages

Expert Local Guides

Behind every great fishing lodge is a great guide team, and at The XFlats the guides are the heart of the operation. They are local Xcalak fishermen — some are second- and third-generation guides — who have been reading these flats since they could swim. The eagle eye that spots a permit tail from sixty feet against a tan-and-white bottom is not something you can train in a season. It comes from a lifetime on this water.

All guides speak working English, several are highly fluent. We run a maximum of two anglers per guide and boat — a deliberate limit that means real shots for every angler, all day.

What's Included in Every Package

- Lodging in a private en-suite air-conditioned room
- All meals — breakfast, packed lunch on the boat, dinner
- All non-alcoholic beverages, plus beer and house cocktails
- Daily guided fishing — full day, two anglers per skiff
- Boat, fuel, captain & guide, ice, cooler, lunches and water
- Round-trip ground transfers between Chetumal airport and the lodge
- All applicable lodge taxes and standard staff gratuities
- Wi-Fi access throughout the lodge

Trip Lengths

3 nights / 2 fishing days	Short escape — a first taste
4 nights / 3 fishing days	Long weekend
6 nights / 5 fishing days	Most popular — balanced and complete
7 nights / 6 fishing days	Full week — ideal for first-timers
Current rates	See live pricing at thexflats.com/pricing

07 Best Time to Visit & Getting Here

When to Visit

Xcalak fishes year-round. Different months bring different conditions and shift the species mix slightly, but there is no truly bad month to come.

Months	Conditions	Best For
Jan – Mar	Cool, dry, occasional north winds	Permit, bonefish; sheltered flats
Apr – Jun	Warm, settled, lighter winds	Peak Grand Slam; migratory tarpon arrive
Jul – Aug	Hot, calm mornings	Big tarpon, baby tarpon, permit
Sep – Oct	Warmest seas; tropical-weather window	Excellent permit and snook; fewer guests
Nov – Dec	Cool, often the best weather of the year	Outstanding permit and bonefish

How to Get Here

The Chetumal International Airport (CTM) is by far the easiest gateway to Xcalak. The drive from CTM to the lodge is approximately 2 to 2.5 hours on good paved roads. Round-trip transfers between CTM and the lodge are included in your all-inclusive package. CTM is served by daily domestic flights from Mexico City, and connecting itineraries from most North American hubs are simple.

Cancun International (CUN) has more direct flights from the U.S., Canada and Europe, but the drive is roughly 5 to 6 hours. Some guests fly into CUN, spend a night, and continue down the coast. We can arrange long-distance transfers from CUN for an additional fee.

Documents Required

- Passport valid at least 6 months beyond travel dates
- Mexican tourist card (FMM) — issued on arrival
- Mexican fishing license — we assist with purchase
- Travel insurance with medical coverage strongly recommended

08 Gear Guide — What to Pack

Saltwater fly fishing in Xcalak rewards anglers who arrive with the right tackle. Below is a working checklist drawn from years of experience on these flats. If you are unsure about any item, contact the lodge before your trip — we are happy to advise.

Rods

- **8-weight** — workhorse rod for bonefish; bring two if possible.
- **9-weight** — primary permit rod; covers larger bonefish and snook.
- **10-weight** — backup permit rod and primary baby-tarpon stick.
- **11- or 12-weight** — if migratory adult tarpon are on your target list (April through August in particular).

Reels, Lines & Leaders

Quality saltwater reels with sealed drags, matched to your rod weights, loaded with at least 200 yards of 20- to 30-pound backing. A floating tropical/saltwater taper is the standard line for both bonefish and permit. An intermediate or clear-tip line is useful for tarpon work in deeper edges. Use 9- to 12-foot fluorocarbon leaders in 12- to 20-pound class for bonefish and permit, with heavier shock tippet (40-60 lb) for tarpon and barracuda.

On the Water

- Lightweight long-sleeve sun shirts and quick-dry pants
- Polarized sunglasses with amber or copper lenses (essential)
- Wide-brimmed hat or cap with neck buff
- Reef-safe sunscreen (SPF 30+) and lip balm
- Wading boots if you intend to wade
- Small dry bag and waterproof phone case for the boat

Off the Water

Casual lodge attire — shorts, t-shirts, light layers for cooler evenings (especially December through February). The dress code is genuinely relaxed. Pack a swimsuit, sandals, and a light rain shell.

09 Guest Reviews

4.8 5.0 average **30+ reviews**

“Waking up to the sunrise at the lodge is not to be missed. The guide staff is first rate, very knowledgeable and eager to put you on fish. The food was excellent. My daughter and son-in-law and I all caught our first Permit along with some great Bonefish. I'm already planning my next trip.”

— Cliff O., Oregon, USA

“Six incredible days targeting bonefish. A very laid-back place with friendly, efficient staff. Lots of fresh seafood cooked with local recipes. The owner was a wealth of knowledge. His guides had basic to very good English so communication on the flats was not a problem. We need to go back.”

— Lacombe, Alberta, Canada

“The team at XFlats are amazing — welcoming, knowledgeable, and they like to have a great time as well. They treat you like family from the start. I cannot recommend this place enough. Food was excellent, drinks were cold, vibes were high.”

— CDM

“Without a doubt, the best flats fishing experience in Xcalak. Our week was the most memorable trip of my life — so much so that I am planning to return in a few months. I saw 25 to 50 fish every day and had countless shots, and we caught multiple different species.”

— Andrew L.

See more guest stories and photos in our gallery at thexflats.com/gallery

10 Reserve Your Trip

Spaces fill quickly — particularly during peak permit and tarpon seasons. We recommend booking 6 to 12 months in advance for the dates you want, though we are always happy to discuss late availability for flexible anglers. Reach out by phone or through our website and we will help you build the trip that fits your goals, schedule, and group size.

How to Book

- Visit our website and use the “Book Now” or “Reserve Now” link in the header.
- Call us directly at **+1-863-632-2672** to discuss dates, group size and trip length.
- Submit the contact form with your preferred travel window.
- We respond within 24 hours with availability and a hold option.

Contact Information

Lodge	The XFlats — Xcalak Fly Fishing Lodge
Website	thexflats.com
Phone	+1-863-632-2672
Location	Xcalak, Quintana Roo, Mexico
Endorsements	Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Lodge | Howler Bros Pro | Bajío

Reserve Your Xcalak Adventure

Spaces fill quickly. Contact us to plan your saltwater fly fishing trip.

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